

THE BUILDING OF THE GREAT PYRAMID AT GIZEH

According to this fascinating theory, the Great Pyramid incorporated a pump design that utilised water and chemical power to raise the massive stone blocks to higher levels.

An interview with
Richard W. Noone

by Alexander Horvat
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Richard Noone seriously embarked on his quest to unravel some of the secrets of the ancient world when, in 1975, he started research for his book, *5/5/2000 Ice: The Ultimate Disaster*. Seven years later, he found a publisher (Crown Publishing in New York) willing to publish his findings on ancient civilisations and the role of massive Earth changes in their demise.

In 1997, Crown released a revised edition of his book with an exciting new epilogue which presents additional evidence that the Egyptians did not build the Great Pyramid with grunt slave labour dragging 20-ton, 90-ton and 200-ton blocks around the country on wooden sleds.

To quote Peter Tompkins, author of *Secrets of the Great Pyramid*: "Richard Noone's painstaking investigation into the lost technology of the sophisticated builders of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh helps to unravel the mystery of this geodetic and astronomic wonder, answering questions as to who constructed it, when, how and why. Just the manner in which the casing stones were cut to optometric precision and accurately placed and fitted without damage could not be accomplished today with the advanced engineering of our space age. Research by Noone also highlights the continued struggle of scholars against the pitted obscurantism of the local authorities who continue to block research into what must be considered the patrimony not only of Egypt but of humanity."

Noone commences with what his research reveals about how the construction of the Great Pyramid began.

"When the builders arrived, they saw a rocky knoll and a plateau that the pyramids sit on today. The first thing they had to do was level-off the construction site. The Great Pyramid is still level to within a half-inch over its thirteen-and-a-half-acre base. That is quite extraordinary; far better than we do on our buildings today. The obvious way for them to have done this would have been for them to cut channels or ditches into the rock of the site, then fill those ditches with water and drill away the rock between each ditch, using the water in each trench as a levelling mechanism.

"However, the one thing that most TV shows do not show is that the builders left a large rocky hill at the centre of the construction site. The reason for that was so that the well shaft which was dug through the rock hill to the bottom of the Grand Gallery and joins the Descending Passage underground to the Grand Gallery. What they had done was cut the one passageway straight down to the subterranean pit [referred to in Noone's book as the Chamber of Chaos or upside-downedness]. This pit has a smooth ceiling, a rough floor and a hole in it, and a saucer-shaped bowl.

"In any event, we all know that water will seek its own level. So when you have your construction site to the stage where you have a tunnel which follows a tortuous path and you have a shaft going down that joins up in an 'L-shaped' connection with the Descending Passage, you can utilise water which would be poured down that shaft, filling up the subterranean pit, and at the same time the air that was in the pit would be compressed against the ceiling. Once the water compresses the air against the ceiling of the lower compression chamber or pit, it would force water back up the lower diagonal. At one time there was a hinged granite door that only opened inward and downward, as I show in my book. Water rushing down there would go back up only until it hit this door or check valve, slamming it shut. Then, water would be forced to rise up the well shaft, the purpose being to bring water to the centre of the construction site above.

"At least one of the blocks in the Great Pyramid weighed 300 tons. Today, we don't have a crane on Earth that can lift 300 tons. The maximum lift for cranes I think is around 200 tons. Not only would a lift like that be difficult by today's standards, but positioning

the needed equipment could take more than a week to lift one block," Noone stated.

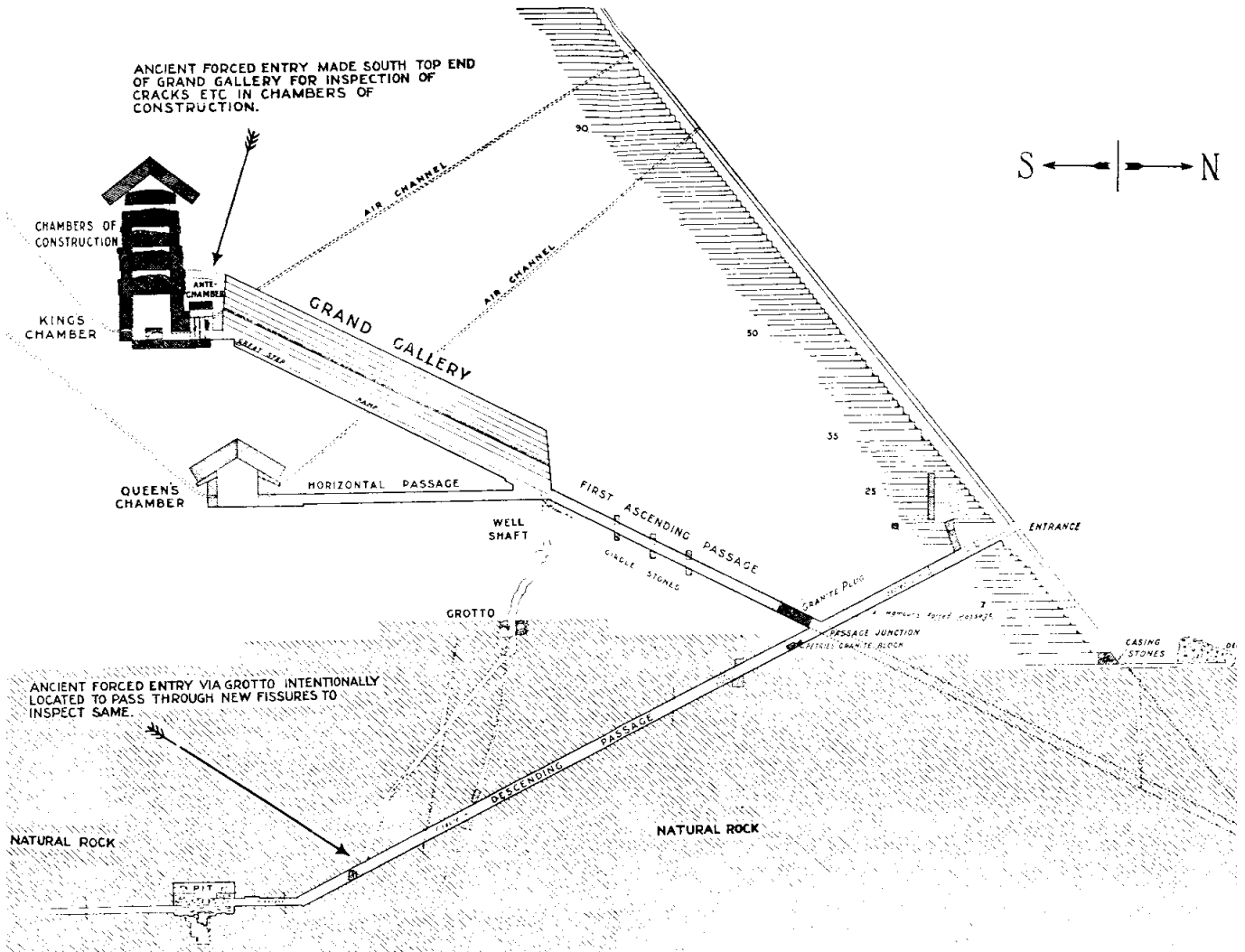
"In the early 1930s, during the Great Depression, a tremendous inventor, Edward Kunkel, began studying how the Great Pyramid was built. A friend of his commented to him, after hearing a lecture about the date and size of the stones used in building the Great Pyramid: 'I bet a fellow could make \$50 if he could figure out how it was done and write a newspaper article about it.' Kunkel in his autobiography said that \$50 was a huge sum of money back in the Depression. So this could have been his prime motivation."

In describing this unique pyramid-building theory, Noone said: "Kunkel examines every known means for lifting a weight. The phenomenal weight of the blocks that make up the Great Pyramid has boggled the mind of anyone who has studied thousands of years of stone masonry. Today, people even speculate that advanced beings from outer space came down and built the Great Pyramid, or that at one time man had somehow learned to use the power of his mind to levitate the blocks into place. Now, either one of those may or may not be true. What Kunkel did was examine the seven ways to move a mass, e.g., manually or with the use of a wedge or screw, an inclined plane, a lever, gear wheels or a pulley. One way was with the use of pumps and

hydraulics or water power. In essence, Kunkel was making a list and using a process of elimination to see which method was actually used."

Noone pointed out the flaws in mainstream thinking about pyramid construction. "Most of us are brainwashed from seeing too many television specials where the orthodox Egyptologists have shown modern-day workers pulling with ropes, muscle and human sinew a block of stone that weighed maybe a ton. You watch them and they have a tremendously difficult job moving a one-ton stone. That is a small block compared to most of the blocks in the Great Pyramid, so it has no basis in reality when you talk about some of the blocks in the Great Pyramid weighing as much as a modern diesel train engine of 90 tons. I would like to see these proponents of slaves pulling a weight with primitive methods, take a diesel train engine out to the Gizeh Plateau, take the wheels off it and pull it 50 feet up a ramp. I once saw a picture where 900 men were in harness pulling a large block in cadence (i.e., one, two, three, heave!), unlike dumb beasts of the field that couldn't pull together. The first thing I imagined when I saw this picture was the rope snapping like a kite string."

Certainly it's a worthwhile point to note that if massive ropes or chains were used, there could be handling scars from dragging on the stone. But there are no such traces of either handling scars or



The passage system of the Great Pyramid, as it looks west. Courtesy Richard Noone, reprinted from 5/5/2000.

a ramp massive enough to accompany these huge blocks. While orthodox Egyptologists remain mired in the worn-out cliché that 'with enough people you can move anything', Noone ascribes a far greater degree of technological and engineering prowess and intelligence to the ancient Egyptians than the mainstream is willing to do.

About the ramp theory, Noone had this to say. "The single ramp theory, the long ramp, was discounted because every time a level of blocks would be laid, you'd have to raise the level of the ramp. The ramp would be a mile long and would have to be raised every time you went up a level. The ramp would consume four times more material than the Great Pyramid itself! After this theory was discounted in the early days, a clever fellow came up with the idea that spiral ramps, wrapped around the Pyramid, were used to drag the blocks up to a higher and higher level, 20 to 45 storeys high. The ramps 'somehow' stayed attached to the Pyramid with some unknown type of superglue. But turning the corners with the larger blocks of stone would have been quite impossible."

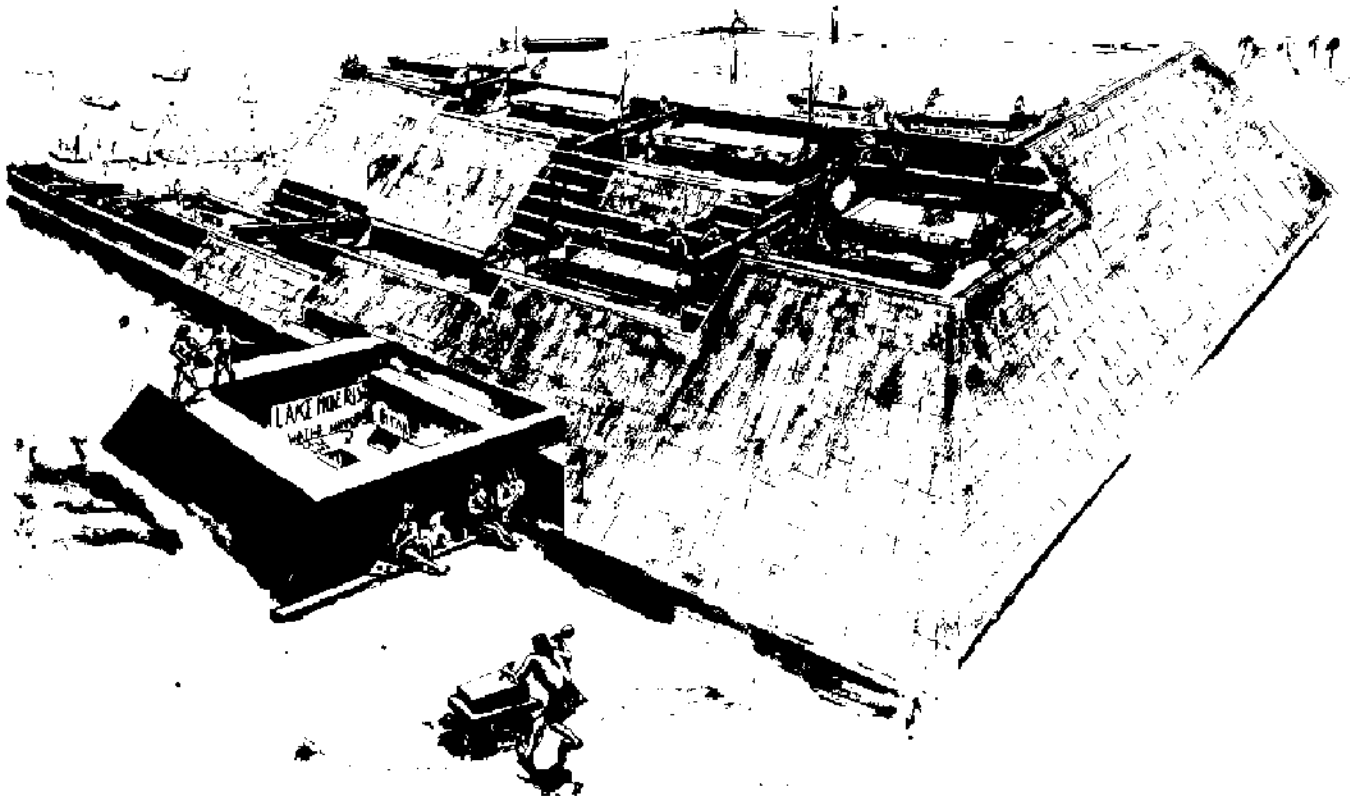
Noone suggests examining what makes sense. "Anyone who has been to the Great Pyramid will know you can still see some of the original casing stones. These are stones that are cut in five

planes—a top, a bottom, a back, two sides—and a slanted front cut at 51.51 degrees. Kunkel deduced that once the first four rows of those casing stones were put in place, you had a huge square into which you could introduce and impound water. Those casing stones would hold a pond covering the 13 acres inside of those blocks. Men would then be working waist-deep in water.

"With a simple water lock at one corner, blocks could be brought into the work pool on a barge. One man would then walk in waist-deep water, guiding a block which would be called a 'back-up block' that would go behind the row of casing stones, gently sliding it off the back of the barge to put it in place. The placement would be aided with a thin lubrication film of cement, one-fiftieth of an inch thick. This cement boggles the mind of stone masons today because it was stronger than the stone it bonded together. This is how you can handle stones without leaving handling scars. By

dragging precision-cut stones across miles of desert, you would chip them and there would be scars; but there are none on these blocks. By using water as your transport-and-setting medium, you simplify the process. When they wanted to go up higher, they would raise the level of the water that was impounded by the casing stones and add the new ones. After that, they floated in a second level of casing stones to be set on top of the first row.

"...the long ramp [theory] was discounted because every time a level of blocks would be laid, you'd have to raise the level of the ramp. The ramp would consume four times more material than the Great Pyramid itself!"



"Zig-zagging across the northern face can be traced an ancient 'carriage road'. Along its route are holes 8" round. This road was afterwards filled in with small stones. No evidence showed that it was used as such. A system of locks seemed more logical." Edward Kunkel's depiction of how the Great Pyramid could have been constructed utilising a system of water locks to float the blocks to the next highest course of construction.

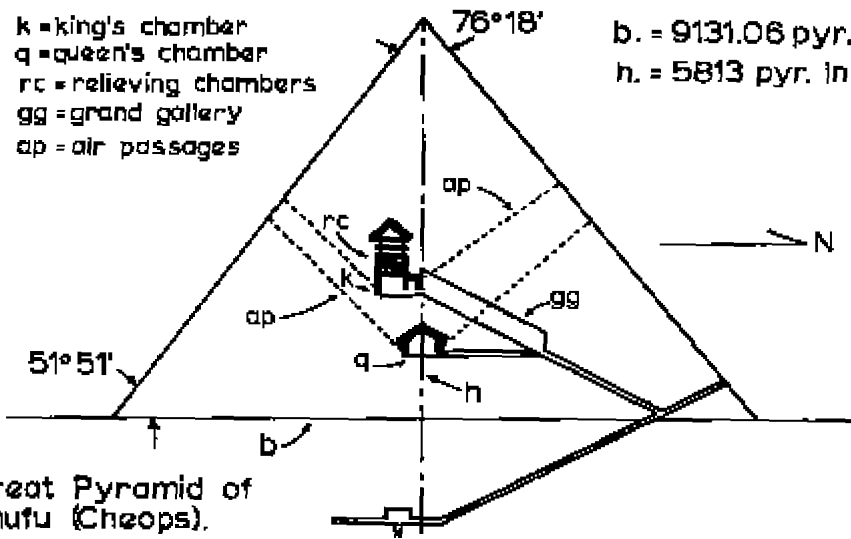
"One thing that Kunkel noticed, that the others have not, was that the each of the joints or seams—which are so thin that you can't get a razor blade between them—is 35 square feet in area. This tight fit would make it leakproof or waterproof. Once the next row was added, more back-up blocks would be brought in. The Great Pyramid was built from the centre up, using a hydraulic crane to lift and lower the level of the water in the work pool."

How big a crane are we talking about? This hydraulic crane was powered by a chemical engine, as Noone describes. "In most schoolbooks today they say that the Egyptians did not know how to make any metal but copper, which is very soft. Yet, a piece of iron was blasted out of the interior of the Great Pyramid, and the fact that it was covered with cement prevented it from rusting away over the ages. We now know that the Bronze Age and Iron Age started way before Egyptologists theorise. With Kunkel's research, we know the Machine Age had already started.

"The ancient Egyptians used a chemical engine and a series of water locks to bring the stone up to the next highest course of construction. A chemical engine is something that uses a gas or fire, and this begins with a gas such as would be emitted from burning a bushel of wood. In the late 1700s, a man named Davidson found a little chamber—an opening at the very top of the Grand Gallery. This is what Kunkel calls the 'firing hole'. As you climb up the inside of the Grand Gallery, remember that the well shaft connects with the intake of the Grand Gallery and that water seeks its own level.

Pyramid = fire within

- k = king's chamber
- q = queen's chamber
- rc = relieving chambers
- gg = grand gallery
- ap = air passages



Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops).

Professor Nelson [Professor of Egyptology at Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Montana] suggests that if the coffer in the King's Chamber were filled with an aqueous solution of natron NaHCO_3 , NaCl and Na_2SO_4 , the salt water itself would act as an effective conductor of electricity for the piezoelectric induction from the matt-finished walls of the King's Chamber. This, Professor Nelson points out, would make it unnecessary to line the coffer with metal; the salt itself is an effective conductor of electricity. Professor Nelson correctly points out that such a process would naturally produce chlorine gas which, somehow, would have been vented from the chamber. The 'stable' organic compounds in human blood are essentially the same as sea water. A human candidate placed in this coffer during this process would experience a low-voltage shock to his brain from the electrolysed natron solution which Nelson says would have very good "health-restoring properties". (Source: 5/5/2000, p. 244)

"There is an opening in the well shaft, the grotto, that is about equal in height to the original entrance to the Great Pyramid. If you had nothing more than a bucket brigade pouring water through the entrance of the Great Pyramid, the water would rush down the Descending Passage, filling the subterranean pit. With the pit full, water would rise up the Descending Passage until stopped by the granite check valve. The compressed air in the pit, pushing against the water, would force the water up the well shaft into the grotto. From the grotto upwards, the well shaft is lined with stone.

"The ancient Egyptians used a chemical engine and a series of water locks to bring the stone up to the next highest course of construction."

"Peter Tompkins, the author of *Secrets of the Great Pyramid*, allowed me to use the very first pictures taken by Piazzi Smyth of the interior of the Great Pyramid. You can see from the grotto up to the intake of the Gallery, which is built to withstand atmospheric pressure, that the joints are so fine you can't stick a pin anywhere in between.

"What they would do to bring the water up higher from the grotto area would be to light a fire in this firing hole at the top of the Grand Gallery. The next step would be to lower the granite slabs in the antechamber. As the fire burnt in the Grand Gallery, that produced the same effect as burning a candle in a pie pan of water and placing a bottle over it. This chemical reaction would have the effect of pulling the water level up from the grotto to the top of the Grand Gallery. For those doing the experiment with the pie pan, candle and wide-mouthed bottle demonstrating this effect, you will note that when you change the fuel you double the amount of water that is sucked upwards."

Now, while this experiment only fills the bottle about one-third of the way, Noone shows that the size of the fire and the ensuing chemical reaction will move a lot more water. Plus, the addition of pressure from the compressed air in the subterranean chamber goes up the well shaft. The water is again aided by the compressed air in the Queen's Chamber, thereby making a second compression to push the water to a higher level.

The difference in chemical reactions determined by what you burn is what caused George Washington Carver in 1934 to understand how Kunkel's pump worked. Carver wrote to Kunkel: "Your explanation, I believe, is the solution to one of the greatest mysteries of the ages."

For those curious as to why the well shaft is not straight, Noone made this comment: "The reason why the well shaft is cut in such a tortuous shape requires a little understanding of Bernoulli's theory of fluid dynamics. As the water was dropped after it was brought up the Grand Gallery, the shape of that well shaft developed a tremendous whirlpool as the water fell down the shaft and through the lateral connection at the bottom. You can see it was a complicat-

ed system of compounding gravity twice, compounding atmospheric pressure twice, and working with a huge volume of water that they could raise and lower at will. As soon as they cut the two shafts and ran them together, they had the basic mechanics of a hydraulic ram pump. I would imagine that some of the larger temples in Egypt, like Karnak, were all built with impounded water to mover larger weights.

"If you read Herodotus, the Greek historian, in 440 BC he described that the Great Pyramid had a wall around it and the whole construction site around the Pyramid was filled with water. Herodotus further mentioned that there were two large pyramids built in a lake, and that there was as much of the pyramids above the surface of the the lake as there was below.

"The water Herodotus referred to originally came from Lake Moeris, formed by damming the river south of Memphis and diverting water through the Hawara Gap. It was a man-made lake, thought to be about 300 feet deep, filling the Qattara Depression, 434 feet below sea level, and, with around 450 miles of shoreline, about the size of Lake Erie. This would put it higher than the pavement of the Great Pyramid and would allow water to flow by gravity to the well in front of the Great Pyramid."

Noone cites much previous research. "In my book I show a drawing from an 1839 book by Col. Howard Vyse— *The Pyramids of Gizeh*. When they were still excavating the rubble around the base of the Great Pyramid, there was this huge well-shaft in front of the original entrance that goes 100 feet into the ground. This was another part of the water pumping system.

"In the grotto they also had a check valve that opened and closed. The door that's in the grotto had a hole drilled through it, so when they dropped that huge amount of water out of the Grand Gallery, it would come down, slam this door shut, and the flow of water going through the hole would tend to pull in enormous amounts of air. Because of that and the shape of the well shaft, as the water fell down the shaft it would develop a spin, just like a tornado.

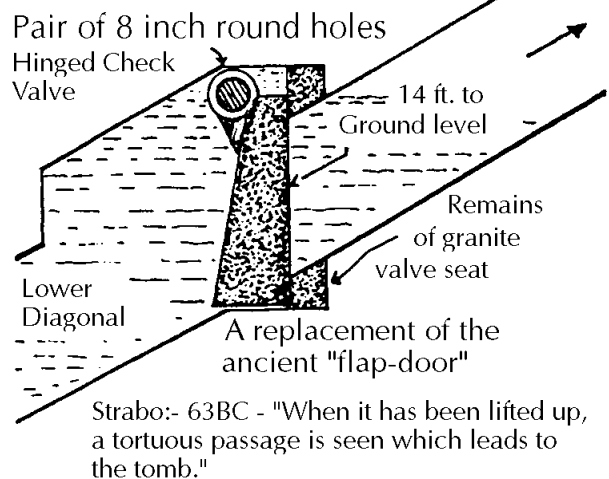
"If you look at the temple compound constructions at Karnak, everything built there of any height originally had high walls around it so they could bring in the stones, float them up the canal and bring them into the centre of the construction site at Karnak. By raising and lowering the water level, they could build enormous structures."

To put this into perspective, Noone commented: "Kunkel was doing this research from the 1930s to his death from cancer in 1982. At that time, most history books espoused the theory that ancient man had an infantile mind and was not very smart. That is a contradiction in terms because when you go back in history and look at the architectural accomplishments such as the Great Pyramid, and we can't figure out how it was built, it's clear that we don't have the story straight yet.

"For the new edition of my book, I worked for months with James M. Hagan who is known throughout the world as an architect who specialises in building large projects. Hagan is a consultant who is often sought after when architects have big problems. Amongst Hagan's architectural designs is the football stadium and rail system in Atlanta, Georgia."

A controversial point about building the pyramids is the question of just how they cut and surfaced the stones. According to

SOLID LIMESTONE



Encyclopaedia Britannica (9th ed.) describes eight-inch round holes here. Holes have been plastered over, masonry has been removed, and the whole area covered with dark red gloss paint. (Source: From *Pharaoh's Pump*, © 1962 by Edward J. Kunkel)

Noone: "To understand how they got these stones as smooth as they are, I inquired at the Indiana Limestone Institute of America. They know more about quarrying and cutting limestone than any other group on Earth. I worked with one of their technical direc-

tors, Merle Booker. In my book I reproduce a letter from Booker, stating that to quarry the amount of stone in the Great Pyramid, if they used all of their 33 separate quarries, each quarry running three eight-hour shifts per day, with all their modern equipment, it would take 27 years just to get the stone out. This idea of chiselling with big wooden mallets and copper chisels, even though we now know they had iron, doesn't make any sense. It would take far, far longer than 27 years to do it that way.

"In the new edition of my book I explain a method in which they could finish those stones of any size with the greatest of ease. They may have used wood and water to split the rocks at the quarry and get them into a block size. (Even granite will break when you put dry wooden wedges into drilled-out holes and then wet the inserted wood. The wood will expand and the next day you'll have begun to split that block.) After that, the blocks could be floated into a special cutting pool. It would be like a very large, modern-day swimming pool with a shallow and deep end. In the bottom of this special cutting pool there would be diamond cutting members. If you wanted to cut a block just as smooth as a baby's bottom, you'd start draining the water out of the pool. The weight and the pull of gravity would cause the block to start sliding down, repeatedly passing over many cutting members. When it finally reached the bottom it would be cut as fine and smooth as the lens in your glasses. Then it would be taken out of that cutting pool by a barge and another stone brought in. You could cut it easily that way in an assembly line process."

"By raising and lowering the water level, they could build enormous structures."

Kunkel was awarded a patent in 1958, but much earlier he'd built a small model of this pump after studying the diagram of the inside of the Great Pyramid. He said that after installing two check-valves he could move water through the pump.

"What are the odds," Noone queried, "that an inventor like Kunkel could come along and copy the interior of one of the oldest buildings on Earth and add a couple of check valves and get a US patent on a new type of pump?"

The fact that Kunkel innocently admitted that his pump was modelled on the interior of the Great Pyramid is believed to be the reason why it took him four years to get his patent on his new invention, as nobody believed it would work. The patent engineer who initially expressed interest in his idea would cut short the interview when the impetus for Kunkel's idea came up. Eventually Kunkel learned to change his story.

Pharaoh's Pump, Kunkel's book on the subject, is 84 pages long and is more of an instruction manual on how to operate an ancient chemical engine. This technology could be applied to help irrigate areas of the advancing desert, thus changing the climate and eventually making arid areas more habitable.

On the idea that the Great Pyramid blocks were poured like cement, Noone was asked to comment by Margie Morris, co-author with Joseph Davidovits of a book on the subject. Noone asked her to send a sample of the concrete that would have been used in the construction of the Pyramid, but he never received one—thus he became more sceptical of that method.

About the other pyramids being constructed with the same method, Noone professed no knowledge. "To date, they have not found similar passageways, like in the Great Pyramid, in the other two pyramids—at least that knowledge has not been made public if they had. However, with the power you would generate by the pump, one of the canals that goes to the second pyramid could have been powered by their original pump inside the Great Pyramid," he commented.

However, research by John Anthony West, Robert Schoch and others has shown that a long time ago, between 7000–5000 BC, Egypt had a much wetter climate. The water damage done to the Sphinx may point to a different environment around the time construction was going on. It could be that when the climate suddenly changed, man had to learn to work, move and irrigate with water in order to survive (as shown in Noone's book on p. 236).

The Great Pyramid is extraordinary for its intricate passageways and chambers and the high degree of workmanship required to build it. In 1993, German inventor/explorer/engineer Rudolf Gantenbrink created a robot that would travel the narrowest of passageways in the Great Pyramid. The exploits of this robot became the focus of TV specials but remained inconclusive, as an obstacle was discovered in one of the narrow descending passages. When Gantenbrink requested permission to journey beyond the problem area, the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation [the Supreme Council of Antiquities] denied him permission.

World Explorer asked Noone if the Egyptians were helping or hurting the further exploration and knowledge the pyramids have to offer. Noone commented: "There seems to be an information management, or what architect James M. Hagan called a 'Nilegate', going on. The explanations now offered by

Egyptologists are little more than pablum served up and spoon-fed to children. They have covered up the passageways under the Sphinx, which Kunkel shows to be a secondary pump. Zahi Hawass and Mark Lehner were shown these passageways under the Sphinx in 1980. The tunnels look the same today as the well shaft in the Great Pyramid, that I saw in 1988. When Professor Schoch asked to go into the same areas later, the permission was denied. Hawass and Lehner gained access to a vast underground complex beneath the Gizeh Plateau in 1980. Why is it being kept secret?"

A huge water tunnel under the Gizeh Plateau was briefly made known, but no other information has surfaced about it. Even accredited scientists are not allowed in these apparently restricted areas. What have they found? What are they doing down there?

In the December 1997 issue of *KMT, A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt*, Hawass, when asked about the chamber found by the West/Schoch team using seismic sounding equipment, denied they had found anything. Noone has verified that the printout indicated a chamber, approximately 30 by 40 feet, below the Sphinx. What was stored there?

Hawass apparently keeps secret what he knows and will probably not talk. When he found out the West/Schoch team was conducting these experiments, he worked quickly to cancel their open-ended permits and get them off the Gizeh Plateau after only five days of experiments. Fortunately, they discovered the chamber where America's sleeping prophet Edgar Cayce predicted it would be.

In 1933, Edgar Cayce was asked how the Great Pyramid was built. The answer: "By the lifting forces of

those gases" (reference Cayce reading 5750-1). Cayce also said that the discovery of how the Great Pyramid was built would be made in 1958. That was the year Kunkel was awarded the patent for his pump.

About the Author:

Richard W. Noone, author of *5/5/2000 Ice: The Ultimate Disaster*, has been featured on major national media, including: Fox TV's *Prophecies of the Millennium*, The Learning Channel's *Solar Empire*, CNN Headline News, CNN Newsnight, CBS's *This Morning*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Sightings*, Art Bell's radio show, *Incredible Sunday*, WTBS, Donohue, NBC's *Ancient Prophecies*, Sun International Pictures' *UFO Diaries*, and A&E's *The Unexplained*. His research is also featured in the videos *Enter Darkness, Enter Light: The Technologies of the Gods*, and on Chris Carter's hit TV show, *Millennium*.

Mr Noone is a 32nd-Degree Freemason of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, a member of SIAHAT (Society of Inter-American Highway Auto Travelers) since 1964, and a member of the World Explorers Club. He may host a trip to Egypt for Mystical Journeys, Inc. in 1999.

Richard Noone's Internet websites are: <<http://rnoone.com>> and <www.futurefate.com>. To schedule an interview, e-mail <bbelfiglio@randomhouse.com>.

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